Making education more playful and less monotonous

599. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have initiated certain measures to make education more playful and less monotonous in the primary classes;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the other measures Government propose to evolve to explore creativity and create environment for out-door play etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) The National Curriculm Framework (NCF) 2005 and the new textbooks, developed by the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) emphasize joyful learning in primary classes. Under the ongoing programme of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, special thrust has been given to child centered teaching-learning strategies by way of activity based teaching materials and textbooks, orientation of teachers through regular annual training programmes and appropriate academic guidance and supervision by cluster and block resource centres to schools and teachers.

Unregistered foreign universities

600. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are a number of foreign universities in the country which are not registered by AICTE;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of foreign universities which are registered by AICTE; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to monitor these foreign Universities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) and (b) According to the Regulations for entry and operations of foreign

universities/institutions imparting technical education in India, 2005 of the AICTE, only technical education (courses) under collaboration by foreign universities with Indian Institutions are required to be registered with the Council.

(c) and (d) Two foreign universities have registered with the AICTE for offering technical courses in collaboration with Indian Institutions. The Council motions the registered foreign universities under the provisions of the Regulations.

Regularisation of foreign universities

601. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are planning to introduce a Bill to regularize functioning of foreign universities in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of foreign universities in India at present; and

(d) the details regarding courses and subjects being offered and also the fee structure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) and (b) There is a proposal for a central legislation to regulate the entry and operations, as well as to prevent commercialization of higher education, by Foreign Educational Institutions.

(c) There are no campuses of Foreign Universities in India at present.

(d) Does not arise in view of reply to part (c).

Maths and English for minorities

602. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are planning to introduce a policy which makes Maths and English as optional subjects for minorities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;